

ACTION BY: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs

SOURCE CITATION: Section 225.2 (Sponsor)

Residential Camp Participation in Summer Food Service Program

Sections 225.2 and 225.18(a)(1)-(3) of the regulations governing the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) specify that service institutions eligible to sponsor the Program are public or private nonprofit school food authorities; public or private nonprofit residential summer camps; and units of local, municipal, county or State government. The purpose of this Instruction is to provide guidance on the participation of residential camps in the SFSP.

In cases where a private nonprofit organization is not legally incorporated as a residential camp, but operates a residential camp for its enrolled children, the organization would be considered eligible for SFSP participation. For example, a number of private nonprofit organizations, such as the Salvation Army and the YWCA, provide a year-round service to the community and also operate residential camps for enrolled children during the summer months. Therefore, private nonprofit organizations that are incorporated as residential camps and private nonprofit organizations that operate their own residential summer camps are eligible to sponsor their residential camps in the SFSP.

Private nonprofit entities, other than school food authorities, are not eligible to sponsor any type of program other than their residential camps, since legislation specifies that private nonprofit service institutions may only participate as residential camps. Therefore, a nonresidential camp may only participate in the SFSP as a site under the sponsorship of an eligible unit of government or public or private nonprofit school food authority. Nonresidential camps cannot participate as sites under the sponsorship of public or private nonprofit residential camps. Eligibility to sponsor other types of sites has not been extended to residential camps.

In situations where residential camps have a number of children enrolled who are not maintained in residence, administering agencies have the discretion to approve reimbursement for meals served to all children enrolled in the program, provided that (1) the camp is primarily residential; (2) all meals are prepared in the same kitchen; (3) all meals are served in a single dining facility;

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and (4) all children served meals for which Program reimbursement is claimed are eligible for free or reduced price meals based on eligibility information supplied by the family and on file at the sponsor level. This exception should not be misconstrued to mean that residential camps, once eligibility for SFSP participation has been established, may sponsor nonresidential camp sites. It in no way extends the Program to private nonprofit nonresidential sites which are not a part of a residential camp program and is not intended to allow residential camps to act as sponsors for any other types of sites. Administering agencies are advised to closely scrutinized residential camp applications to ensure that these types of entities are not modifying program applications and information to circumvent the intent of the law and regulations. Sponsors are required to submit a single site information sheet for each camp session. It is unacceptable for sponsors of residential camps to be approved when it is necessary to submit multiple site information sheets to correctly describe the operations of a single camp session.



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